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Even Security's Secure In CIA



CHURCH

WASHINGTON (AP) — It might have been simpler to phone President Kennedy — that was the conclusion of Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) after failure to get a messenger-borne letter through the security bars at the Central Intelligence Agency.

It all started when Church

came across some information he thought John A. McCone, director of the super-secret spy agency, ought to have.

Church wrote a letter marked "personal for the director" of the CIA. His office gave it to a Senate riding page, the messengers senators use for communications they consider too important or in too much of a rush for routine handling.

As added precaution Church's secretary phoned the CIA the messenger was coming.

But the page reported back 3½ hours later that he had fallen into the hands of CIA security police who questioned him at length about what he was up to, and wouldn't even accept his letter.

Church's secretary said the messenger phoned asking what to do.

The upshot was that he brought the letter back and Church sent it by regular mail.

But the senator, obviously

nettled by what happened to a letter with his mailing frank printed on it, said he hadn't had an acknowledgement yet.

"Imagine if I had gotten hold of some information of very great importance to the country," Church said. "I couldn't get it past the barricades. I could call the President, though, I suppose."

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